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HOUSE MEMORIAL 4

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES, MUNICIPALITIES,
PUBLIC SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, USING EXISTING
RESOURCES, USE POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY PLANTS IN LANDSCAPING
PROJECTS.

WHEREAS, pollinator species are needed for the
reproduction of seventy-five to ninety percent of the world's
flowering plants and more than one hundred fifty human food
crops, according to scientists; and

WHEREAS, pollinators are essential for New Mexico's
agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, bees pollinate fifteen billion
dollars (\$15,000,000,000) worth of crops, according to the
United States department of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, bees are important pollinators of chile and other
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1 New Mexico products; and

2 WHEREAS, grazing animals are dependent on insect-
3 pollinated legumes, such as alfalfa and clover, for forage; and

4 WHEREAS, pollinator species are essential to producing
5 some of the crops that provide fiber and medicines; and

6 WHEREAS, flying insects, including bees and many species
7 of butterflies, moths, beetles and flies, are the most common
8 pollinators; and

9 WHEREAS, bats and many species of birds, including
10 hummingbirds, are also important pollinators; and

11 WHEREAS, populations of pollinators, including honeybees
12 and western bumblebees, have been declining over the past
13 decade; and

14 WHEREAS, there is a widespread lack of understanding about
15 the importance of pollination and pollinator species, and there
16 is a great need to educate the public about the magnitude of
17 the issue; and

18 WHEREAS, native plants tend to provide superior habitats
19 for native pollinators; and

20 WHEREAS, the unique flora and fauna of New Mexico attract
21 tourism and bring income to the state and could be affected by
22 the loss of pollinators, which help create and preserve New
23 Mexico's beauty; and

24 WHEREAS, yucca moths are the only insects that pollinate
25 New Mexico's state flower; and

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1 WHEREAS, pollinator habitats tend to be degraded or
2 reduced by development, pesticide use and other human
3 activities; and

4 WHEREAS, the loss of pollinators could ultimately threaten
5 global food webs, biodiversity and human life; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico is rich in its variety of native
7 cultures and pollinators, and pollinated plants are significant
8 to native peoples for cultural symbolism, foods and plant
9 products; traditional medicines; and plant-based dyes; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexicans should be encouraged to plant a
11 diversity of native flowers and plants to maximize blooming
12 throughout the growing season and to maximize support of
13 pollinator diversity; and

14 WHEREAS, everyone's future flies on the wings of
15 pollinators; and

16 WHEREAS, Mission Avenue elementary school wild friends
17 challenge every school in New Mexico to build and design their
18 own self-sustaining flower beds or cactus gardens or to plant
19 native bushes on their campuses;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
21 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that state and
22 county agencies, municipalities, public schools, colleges and
23 universities be requested to use pollinator-friendly plants,
24 including native eco-region specific plant mixtures, in
25 landscaping projects to create pollinator habitats; and

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